

REMARKS

The Election of Species Requirement has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the above-referenced application and are subject to an Election of Species Restriction Requirement.

Three species have been identified by the Office: (1) a stacked capacitor structure, shown in FIGs. 2-4; (2) a trench isolation structure, shown in FIGs. 5-11; and (3) a dual damascene structure, shown in FIGs. 12-16.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 3, 4, 11-14, and 15-20 reads on the species depicted in FIGs. 2-4, that each of claims 1-7 and 15-20 reads on the species depicted in FIGs. 5-11, and that each of claims 1, 3, 4, 8-10, and 15-20 reads on the species depicted in FIGs. 12-16.

It is respectfully submitted that the term "substrate", as used in the claims, refers to an intermediate semiconductor device structure, such as the types of intermediate semiconductor device structures that are recited in claims 5, 8, and 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 3, 4, and 15-20 is generic to each of the three species that have been identified by the Office.

In any event, an election is hereby made, without traverse, to prosecute claims drawn to the species depicted in FIGs. 2-4.

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An early Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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